Export of Iron-Ore by MMTC

†2737. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector company MMTC exports around four crore ton iron-ore every year;

(b) whether the MMTC exports at the rate of 44 dollar per ton, whereas iron-ore's cost in the open market is 54 dollar per ton;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the actual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. The iron ore exports by MMTC during the last three years is as follows:-

(*Qty. in Million Tonnes*)

Year	Quantity
2003-04	10.51
2004-05	11.78
2005-06 (Provisional)	10.08

(b) to (d) The prices for Iron Ore supplies to Japanese Steel Mills and POSCO, South Korea, who are the long term buyers, are the bench-mark prices which are fixed every year and are applicable for supplies throughout the respective year. The bench-mark price for Iron Ore export for the current financial year 2006-07 for Lumps range from US$ 56.80 to US$ 60.02 per Dry Long Tonne and for Fines is US$ 46.57 per Dry Long Tonne. For export of Iron Ore to China, MMTC finalises the prices on a spot basis which fluctuate depending on demand from the Chinese steel industry.

Pending proposals for AEZs

2738. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of proposal for setting up of Agri-Export Zones pending with the Government at present, State-wise, particularly from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for the delay in clearing the same; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be cleared, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 34 proposals for setting up of new AEZs including 3 from Andhra Pradesh were received by the Government. On the basis of the findings of a peer evaluation of the existing AEZs, it was decided to have an embargo on creationof new AEZs unless there were strong and compelling reasons for the same. The State Governmemnts have been asked to reconsider their proposals in the light of this decision. Thus, no proposals for setting of new AEZ are under consideration of Government of India at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consumption and export of iron-ore

2739. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the volume of export of iron-ore during the last five years;

(b) what are the future export commitments in this regard;

(c) what have been the per tonne net earnings over these exports;

(d) what are the total proven reserves of iron-ore in the country; and

(e) what have been the domestic consumption levels of iron-ore during the last three years and what are the future projections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The total volume of export of iron ore by all sources during the last five years is as follows:-